

Christian Evidences

Lesson 12:

The Error of Theistic Evolution



Review

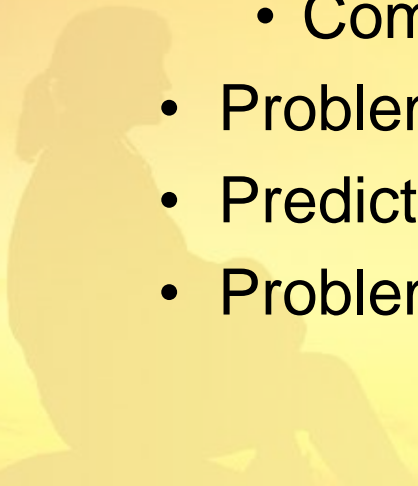
- Introduction
 - Apologetics
 - Why study Christian evidences
- Evidences for the Existence of God
 - Two means of revelation
 - General and special
 - Classical arguments
 - Cause and effect
 - Evidence of design demands a designer
 - The moral argument – within man a moral nature
 - Aesthetical – presence of beauty must be explained

Review

- Evidences for the Bible as God's Word
 - Inspiration
 - Unity and Doctrine
 - Accuracy, archaeology
 - Scientific foreknowledge, prophecy
- Evidences for Jesus being the Christ, the Son of God
 - Jesus' claims
 - External Evidence
 - Secular writers – Jesus was a historical person
 - Internal Evidence – Miracles
 - The Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Jesus

Review

- Creation vs. Evolution
 - Definition and Micro vs. Macro Evolution
 - Supposed proofs
 - Comparative embryology
 - Vestigial structures
 - Comparative anatomy
 - Problems with spontaneous generation
 - Predictions and facts from the fossil record
 - Problems with genetic mutations



Compromise?

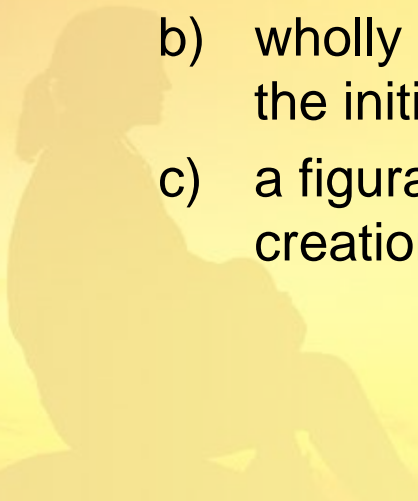
- The evidence against evolution is weighty!
- Many who believe in God have not seen the evidence
 - Feel threatened by the supposed factuality of evolution
 - Struggle with belief in the Bible and the pull of the “intellectual community”
 - Unfortunately, the answer for many is compromise
 - Since evolution first proposed, many have tried to develop compromise positions
- Even among brethren, some have come to believe in the concept known as Theistic Evolution

Theistic Evolution

- “theistic” – derives from the Greek, *theos*, meaning God
 - “theistic evolutionist” – claiming to believe in both God and evolution at the same time
- No one definition or concept for theistic evolution
 - Concept is altered to suit each adherent
 - 1) God created the first building blocks of matter and then allowed the evolutionary process to take over – including the spontaneous generation of life
 - 2) God created not only the initial building blocks of matter, but life itself, and then placed into operation natural laws through which evolution operated over time
 - 3) God not only created the building blocks and gave life a ‘push,’ but actually intervened from time to time, even though evolution was the mode of operation (‘progressive creationists’)

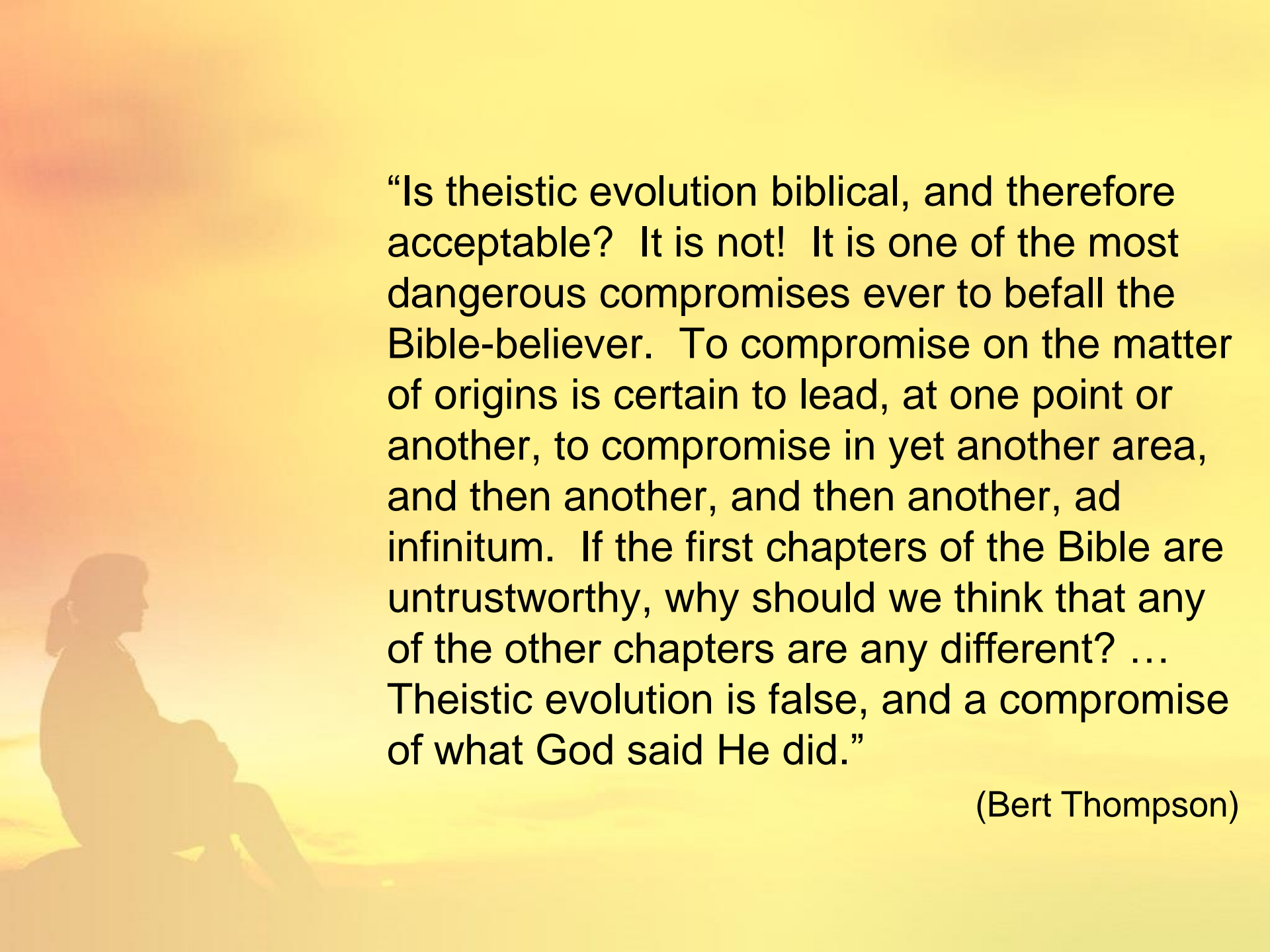
Theistic Evolution

- The theistic evolutionist believes organic evolution was simply 'the way God did it' as He brought the Universe and its contents into existence
- Many varieties of theistic evolution, but some common characteristics:
 - a) an old Earth
 - b) wholly natural processes responsible for life as we see it, once the initial matter was brought into existence by God
 - c) a figurative (non-literal) interpretation of the Genesis account of creation



Why Some Believe in Theistic Evolution

- Bert Thompson lists the following as possible reasons:
 - a) feel the evidence for organic evolution is too strong to ignore
 - b) convinced it's compatible with Divine Record, not contradictory
 - c) feel it "heightens" God's glory by allowing Him to have created the universe through an evolutionary process
 - d) feel it just doesn't matter one way or the other
 - e) feel Genesis has not told us HOW God created but merely WHO created
 - f) influenced by a steady stream of propaganda in such publications as *National Geographic*, *Reader's Digest*, *Discover*, *Scientific American*
 - g) fear being labeled "anti-intellectual"
 - h) desire to avoid controversy at all costs

A silhouette of a person sitting on a rock, looking out at a sunset. The background is a warm, orange and yellow gradient, suggesting a bright sun low on the horizon. The person is in profile, facing right.

“Is theistic evolution biblical, and therefore acceptable? It is not! It is one of the most dangerous compromises ever to befall the Bible-believer. To compromise on the matter of origins is certain to lead, at one point or another, to compromise in yet another area, and then another, and then another, ad infinitum. If the first chapters of the Bible are untrustworthy, why should we think that any of the other chapters are any different? ... Theistic evolution is false, and a compromise of what God said He did.”

(Bert Thompson)

No Theistic Statement Showing it to be True

- God never said He used evolution to create man
 - His revelation declares creation – in fact, **fiat creation**
 - Fiat - a command or act of will that creates something without or as if without further effort
- *Ex. 20:11 – “For in six days the LORD made the heavens ...”*
- *Neh. 9:6 – “You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven ...”*
- *Psa. 33:7-9 – “By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth ...”*
- No hint of a natural, gradualistic process in the Bible
 - Bible doesn't speak of a process that took multiplied billions of years
 - Trying to 'stretch' the instantaneous, creative work of God over multiplied billions of years speaks against plain simple statements of God Himself
 - **God said He did it instantaneously – in six days**

The Bible States Adam was the First Man

“And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” (1 Cor. 15:45)

- The Bible is clear; Adam was the first man
- Paul and Moses (Gen. 1-2) plainly stated this
- However, this is not the case with evolution
 - Evolution theory –*Homo erectus* or *Homo habilis* or *Australopithecus afarensis* or ... was the first man
 - Bible and evolutionary theory are diametrically opposed
- **Which will the theistic evolutionist believe?**

Theistic Evolution Cannot Explain Eve

- The Bible
 - Teaches that God put Adam into a deep sleep and took a rib from his side to form a woman (Gen. 2:21-23)
 - Paul speaks of Eve as being a real, historical person created after Adam
 - *1 Tim. 2:13 – “For Adam was formed first, then Eve.”*
- Evolution
 - Sexes evolved, simultaneously, in the same geographical region, with one being male and one being female, and both being fertile and producing fertile offspring
- How do theistic evolutionists explain this ‘problem of Eve’?
 - Some try to make the first eleven chapters of Genesis mythological or allegorical
 - If the flood was mythological, how do they explain references to it by Jesus and Peter as being a real, historical event?
 - Mt. 24:37-39; 1 Pet. 3:18-20; 2 Pet. 3:5-6

Theistic Evolution Cannot Explain Where Man Acquired His Soul

- Theistic evolutionists must maintain that the image of God, in man, was evolved (to be consistent)
 - Call on God and a miracle to get the image of God in man
 - Why so hesitant to call on God and a miracle for the giving of the life of the body to a physical body formed of the dust of the earth?
- Non-theistic evolutionists
 - Do not find the creation of the image of God in man any more acceptable than the creation of the body of man
- What do theistic evolutionists affirm of the origin of the image of God?
- Bible is quite clear
 - God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26), not an ape
 - Do they propose the soul evolved along with all other parts of man?

Theistic Evolution Logically Denies the Fall of Man

- Bible is clear
 - Man started on the Earth in a covenant relationship with God (Gen. 1-2)
 - Man broke that covenant (Gen. 3)
 - Needs a Redeemer to bring him back into the covenant relationship with the Creator
- Evolution
 - Man did not start at the top and fall to the bottom
 - Started at the bottom as some primordial slime
 - Has 'risen' through eons of geological time

Theistic Evolution Logically Denies the Fall of Man

“When a theologian accepts evolution as the process used by the creator, he must be willing to go all the way with it. Not only is it an orderly process, it is a continuing one. Nothing was finished on any seventh day; the process of creation is still going on ... The spiritual aspects of the life of man are just as surely a product of the processes called evolution as are his brain and nervous system.”

(Dr. Curtly Mather, of Harvard)



Uniformitarianism Instead of Catastrophism

- Bible teaches catastrophism
 - Catastrophism – the theory that the Earth was affected in the past by sudden, short-lived, violent events, possibly worldwide in scope
 - The Bible speaks to us of catastrophic events:
 - The Flood of Genesis 6-8; plagues of Egypt (Ex. 7ff); etc.
 - The miraculous is an intrinsic part of the Bible
- Evolution requires uniformitarianism
 - Uniformitarianism – theory that the same natural laws and processes that operate in the universe now, have always operated in the universe in the past and apply everywhere in the universe
 - ‘The present is the key to the past’ is its watchword
 - All things are going on today just like always have, and always will
 - **The Bible plainly denies this!**

Compromise Theories: Day-Age Theory

Theory: 'The "days" of Genesis were not literal, 24-hour days, but lengthy periods or eons.'

- What evidence substantiates these as literal, 24-hour days?
 - 1) The context demands it
 - "day" would have had no other meaning to Moses than that limited by reference to the sun
 - Note the repeated phrase in Gen. 1: "So the evening and the morning were the first day."
 - 2) "day" – Hebrew word "yom" – a period of both day and night
 - In non-prophetic, O.T. literature, "yom" always refers to a normal day when preceded by a numeral as it does in Gen. 1
 - 3) Moses had terminology available to express long periods
 - "dor" – ages or vast periods

Compromise Theories: Day-Age Theory

- Consider the problems presented by the order of creation in Gen. 1:
 - Sunlight not created until the 4th day
 - How would plants (created on day 3) have survived without it for millions of years?
 - Some plants depend on insects for pollination and reproduction
 - But living creatures not created until days 5 and 6
- Consider the instructions in Ex. 20:11:
 - “For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.”
 - Sabbath command can only be properly understood when these are literal, 24-hour days

Compromise Theories: Day-Age Theory

- Theory is without basis
- The plain descriptive language of Gen. 1 would not lead one to believe that these days were geologic ages
- Only a bias towards believing in the evolutionary timetable causes one to force such a meaning into the passage



Compromise Theories: Gap Theory

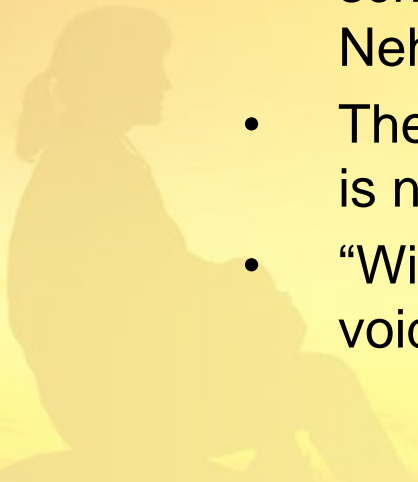
- Theory:
 - ‘The creation of the world by God, as recorded in Gen. 1:1, took place billions of years ago. The creation was then despoiled because of Satan’s disobedience, resulting in his being cast from heaven with his followers. A cataclysm occurred at the time of Satan’s rebellion, and is said to have left the Earth in darkness (‘waste and void’) as a divine judgment because of the sin of Satan in rebelling against God. The world as God had created it, with all its inhabitants, was destroyed and left ‘waste and void,’ which, it is claimed, accounts for the myriad fossils present in the Earth. Then, God ‘re-created’ (or ‘restored’) the Earth in six literal, 24-hour days’
- Intended to harmonize Genesis and geology on the ground of allowing vast periods of time between Gen. 1:1 and Gen. 1:2, in order to account for the geologic ages

Compromise Theories: Gap Theory

- Why this theory is false

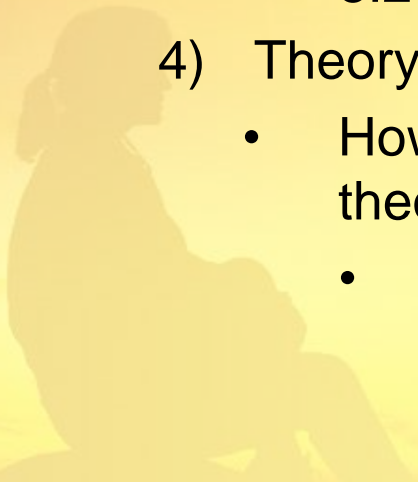
- 1) Mental gymnastics required to reconcile this theory with the Biblical text. A lot is made of just a few words.

- They try to make a difference between “bara” (to create) and “asah” (to make, or to re-make as they claim).
- These two words, however, are used interchangeably in scripture (e.g. compare Gen. 1:1 where “bara” is used with Neh. 9:6 where “asah” is used).
- They try to translate “was” in verse 2 as “became,” but there is no justification for this.
- “Without form and void” is also mistranslated as “waste and void.”



Compromise Theories: Gap Theory

- Why this theory is false
 - 2) No evidence for Satan's rebellion being on earth or for a great cataclysm
 - 3) Theory also implies death among humankind before Adam
 - But the scriptures teach that Adam was the first man, and death entered the world through him (1 Cor. 15:21; Rom. 8:20-22; 5:12).
 - 4) Theory corrupts the grandeur and splendor of the first chapter
 - How could you reconcile the following statement with this theory if it were true?
 - “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” (Gen. 1:31)

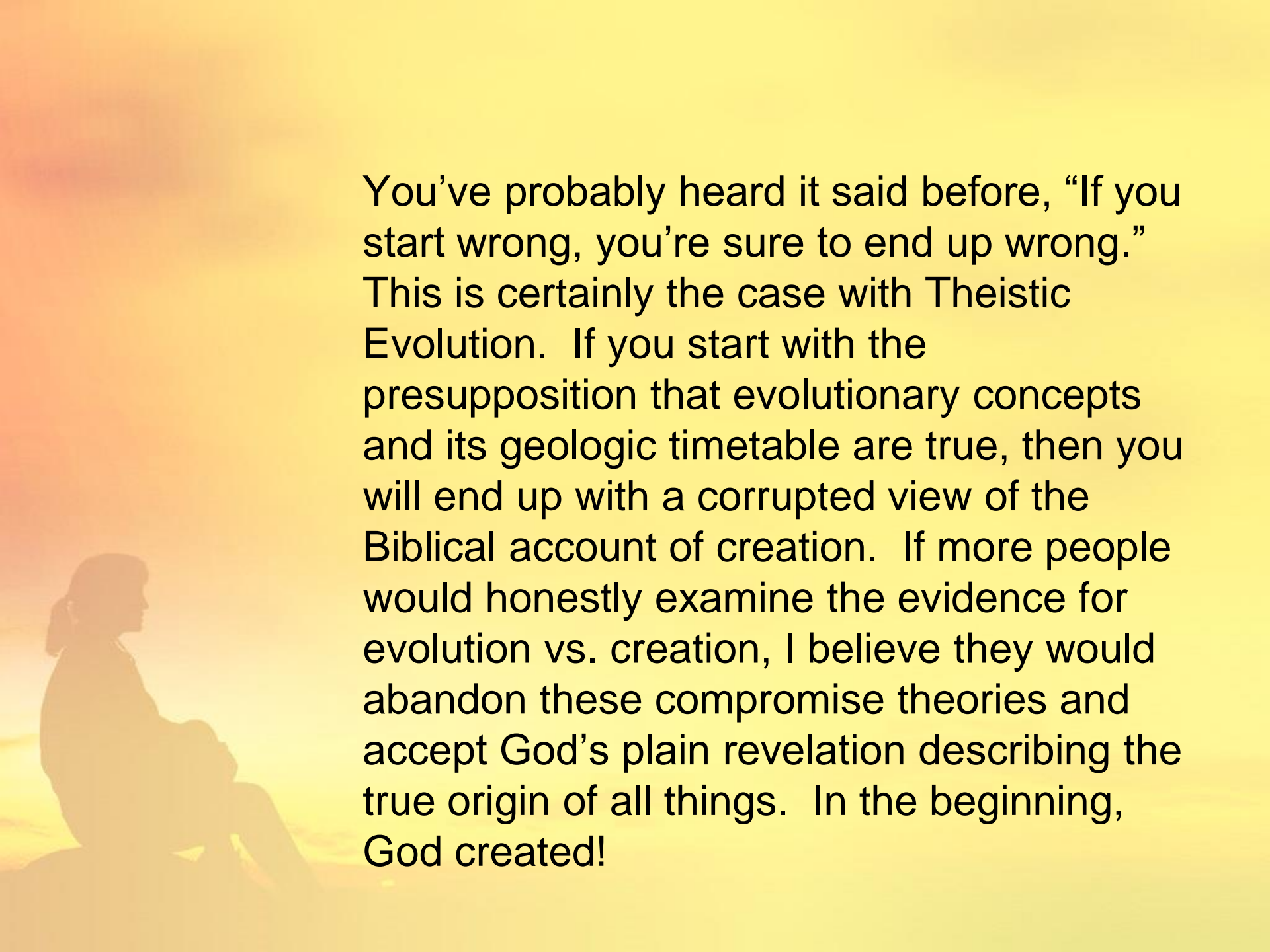


Compromise Theories: Progressive Creationism (Threshold Evolution)

- Theory:
 - ‘God directly created the first life and also the major stages of life as evolution occurred. Supposedly at these stages, God had to “lift” animals over a threshold so that they could start evolving again.’
- Not much different from the Day-Age Theory
 - Adherents usually quick to say it is not the same as Theistic Evolution because of the bad connotation that term sometimes takes on. But, isn't it really the same as theistic evolution?
 - Both call in God to start creation
 - Both accept evolution (in varying amounts)
 - Both accept the validity of the geologic age system
 - Both postulate an old Earth
- Progressive creationism allows God ‘a little more to do in the system’
- Both put God (theos) and evolution together ... that's *theistic evolution*

Other Compromise Theories

- Other theories have been concocted and proposed over the years to try to come up with the compromise so many feel they have to make
 - Modified Gap Theory – no ruination and re-creation, but still a long period in Gen. 1:1
 - Non-World View of Origins – “Genesis 1 is too sublime and spiritual to presume it teaches anything about any particular world view”
 - Multiple Gap Theory – each of the six literal days was followed by long ages of slow development
- Have similar problems as those already pointed out
- Examination of each shows they do not hold up under scrutiny

A silhouette of a person sitting on a beach, looking out at the ocean during a sunset. The background is a warm, golden glow from the setting sun, creating a peaceful and contemplative atmosphere. The person is positioned on the left side of the frame, with their back to the viewer and their gaze directed towards the right.

You've probably heard it said before, "If you start wrong, you're sure to end up wrong." This is certainly the case with Theistic Evolution. If you start with the presupposition that evolutionary concepts and its geologic timetable are true, then you will end up with a corrupted view of the Biblical account of creation. If more people would honestly examine the evidence for evolution vs. creation, I believe they would abandon these compromise theories and accept God's plain revelation describing the true origin of all things. In the beginning, God created!